

# The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for the Sun, please send them to the Editor, The Sun, 170 Nassau street, New York. We will be glad to accept them in all cases and stamp for that purpose.

## Is He a Philosopher?

Here is a friend of work for the sake who states clearly and without reserves an opinion widely held, possibly the opinion of the majority of prosperous Americans:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Your editorial to-day entitled 'A Philosopher' suggests a fruitful topic for discussion. A man becomes a millionaire at 42, and retires to enjoy the rest of his life with horses, gardens and such. You call him a 'philosopher' for realizing the 'blessedness of loafing'."

"May I suggest that when he has reaped up his twenty years of toil, say in six months from now, he may know the curse of being a loafer? Imagine the thirty years of 'loafing' which probably confronts him! To be sure, he can turn his hand to what pleases his fancy in the way of occupation; but occupation without responsibility is about as interesting as a sham battle."

"A man of superior stuff can't stand that for long, and at the height of his powers he would be a better philosopher if he should make work an end rather than a means, with time thrown in to 'invigorate his soul.' A soul without invigoration should not be asked to 'sit down' at forty-two."  
W. B. D.  
New York, March 20."

To work at the same old work for more money when you have enough money seems to some of us superfluous; but in so holding we don't condemn those who practise that monotony. If the habit and routine of their business or occupation are essential to their happiness and the best use and enjoyment of their faculties, opportunities and lives, they too are "philosophers."

By "loafing" we understand a man's struggle for bread and butter having ended, to develop his intelligence, to enlarge his experience, to strengthen his constitution, to amuse himself innocently and to benefit by his ampler range of activities in his town, his State and his country. Released from drudgery, he is free to cultivate his tastes, free to be a volunteer and not a conscript of interesting or fruitful labor, no longer for his own pocket. Must a man drag a chain to be responsible? Does choice or variety of employment make a man irresponsible?

We are aware that much of most of the best practical benefit to individuals and the community comes from men very busy in their own business; but most Americans keep in business till they drop. If this is wise in the case of the comparatively few who are not under the yoke of a friend says, "A fruitful topic for discussion." With no criticism of, with all respect for, the devotees of work, THE SUN ventures to admire the moderate who will not have too much even of sweat of the face. We take it that when ADAM deigned he was not under the impression that labor was a blessing.

## Advice for the Trade Regulators.

Although the committee of nine appointed by the United States Chamber of Commerce to advise and consult with the new Federal Trade Commission will have no legal title to recognition, it may establish a status for itself quite as effectively as if created by law. The Federal Advisory Council, which is a statutory body in the new banking system, seems to have suggested the organization of the committee of trade counselors, and apparently President Wilson is responsible for the action which the Chamber of Commerce has taken.

In his address to the chamber at Washington last month he invited cooperation by the business community in working out the problems posed by Government regulation. He seemed to think that the chamber was a sufficiently representative association to be helpful in this way; and the formation of the trade advisory committee is at least a hopeful response to the encouragement of the Executive.

Nothing is more characteristic of the times than that in making up the committee the chamber should put on it two lawyers and a political economist. Plain business has become so complicated with the law nowadays that a legal staff is almost indispensable to any enterprise. Soci-

ology rampant is probably going to make a department of political economy a requirement of a first class corporation. However, the committee of the Chamber of Commerce differs from the run of political boards appointed to deal with business. It is not lopsided with law and sociology. Business men are in the majority.

At the outset the advisory committee should be able to assist the Federal Trade Commission in carrying out the initial injunction of President Wilson not to begin its career by starting a fresh disturbance of corporate affairs. The President's desire is to have the commission counsel itself to favorable regard by disclosing a constructive purpose.

## If Deathbed Releases Are Restored.

The workmen's compensation law was enacted to protect the victims of industrial accidents and their dependents from legal delays, greedy employers, soulless lawyers and the chicanery of unprincipled adjusters. It went on the statute books of this State under a mandate of the people that revised the Constitution to make the statute possible.

After only eight months experience, and consequently before a definite opinion as to the merits of its provisions can be formed, the Republican majority in the Legislature has engaged in a desperate effort to amend it in such a way as to permit private settlements with injured workers and with the survivors of those who lose their lives. This change has provoked the bitterest charges from members of the majority, and the astonishing spectacle of an appeal to the caucus to jam through a measure that cannot by the widest stretch of imagination be regarded as political was presented in the Assembly. Resort was had to every device of terrorism known to the legislative boss to coerce votes in his favor, while his opponents openly declared that the casualty insurance companies, and no public need, had written the new law.

We have already expressed our opinion as to the plight of the sufferer or the survivor committed to the gentle ministrations of professional accident adjusters and the lawyers for the employers. The ancient evils of ambulance chasing and deathbed releases are likely to be revived. If they are, let the lawmakers who amended the law look to their futures; the men who fought for the compensation law will not soon forget the restoration of the conditions they once successfully struggled to escape.

## Some Fallacies About Climate.

Larger experience and deduction from reliable statistics have convinced physicians that they have been ascribing to climate curative virtues far beyond its deserts, and that the conduct and mode of life under any climatic conditions exert far more potent influence upon the progress of the sick to recovery than does the climate. The unhappy frequency of tuberculosis and the confident belief in former years in the curative virtues of certain climates have contributed to a better understanding of this subject.

A bulletin of the United States Public Health Service emphasizes this point in so practical a manner that the layman has no difficulty in grasping it, especially with regard to the unremunerative outlay so frequently incurred by those who make large financial sacrifices, often beyond their means, in order to give their dear ones "the benefit of a good climate." Inordinate confidence in climatic benefits not rarely induces persons to send invalids away from the comforts and consolations of homes in which amelioration or recovery would be for more certain.

When the fact is considered that tuberculosis is more frequent among those who must earn a living and who have not been able to put aside funds "for a rainy day," definite knowledge of what climate is expected to accomplish becomes a serious problem. Time plays a painfully important part. The disease is usually slow in developing and its duration cannot be foreseen; there is no specific. Rest, fresh air, good food and skilful medical supervision form the chief avenue to recovery.

It has been calculated by Dr. FRAZER of Asheville, N. C., that a shorter stay than ten months in a health resort would be unprofitable and that the minimum amount required would be \$700. If the case has progressed a longer stay and the cost of extras in nursing will become prohibitive. The result is but too often that the sick who are not fully prepared for these emergencies become objects of charity in the resort. The lesson we would draw from these practical data is that since climate is really the least important factor and opportunity for a calm life, rest, good food and care are the more essential. It would be wise to estimate the needed outlays before abandoning, for the most renowned climate, a home where at least good care could be provided. The splendid results achieved by Mr. KINGSBURY's home hospital plan adopted by the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor encourage the friends of invalids to give this intelligent method a fair trial instead of venturing upon the problematic search for climatic benefit.

## Mr. Hull Instructs Us.

From the lips of the Hon. CORBELL, Hull of Tennessee, whose name has been immortalized by the income tax law, the population of this country receives gratefully this rebuke:

"One of the surprising facts in connection with the European war is entire failure of so many intelligent citizens of the United States to realize and appreciate its tremendous effects upon

finance, commerce and industry throughout the world.

"They do not grasp the real scope and extent of the war itself."

"We are passing through the most momentous epoch in the history of the human race."

It has not been THE SUN's fortune to number among its friends any "intelligent citizen" who failed to "realize and appreciate the war's tremendous effect upon finance, commerce and industry throughout the world." Indeed, the intelligent citizens of our acquaintance were quick to understand the supreme significance of the conflict to the whole structure of civilization. Yet Mr. HULL has been fortunate enough to meet "many" who do not "grasp the real scope and extent of the war itself"; and these, he assures us, are "intelligent" citizens.

We can only thank Mr. HULL for directing attention to this curious phenomenon, and we trust that he will not abate for an instant the campaign he has entered on to convince intelligent persons that half the world and more cannot be turned upside down without in some measure discommoding the fraction which is lucky enough to remain at peace.

## Senator Thompson's Defence.

In the extract from the stenographer's minutes of the examination of a member of the up-State Public Service Commission which Senator THOMPSON has sent to THE SUN, and to which he refers in the letter printed in another place on this page to-day, this disclaimer is recorded on page 1900:

"Q.—Up to now the questions I have asked I suggest; I take no personal credit for them, but these questions I have been asked to ask them of you by a constituent of one of the Senators in this vicinity. They may be regarded as not very nice questions."

We have distinguished the concluding sentence of this excerpt with italics. It constitutes the apology made by the Senator from the Forty-seventh district for the uncalculated, indecent and in our opinion indefensible questions which brought into the inquiry the name of a young woman who, as was subsequently disclosed, was in no way concerned in the incident to which they owed their origin. The Senator was providing in these words a defence for the course he was about to pursue.

We retract no word of the criticism we have passed on Senator Thompson's conduct. Instead, his immediate recognition of the character of the questions he asked makes his offense the more serious. He knew that, in his word, those interrogatories were not "nice"; if he has ordinary intelligence he knew that they dealt with a circumstantial and its implications utterly trivial; and yet he did not forbear to use them to embarrass a father and to humiliate an innocent woman. We care nothing for the original malice that suggested them, or the agency that brought them to the hand of a Senator of the State charged with a serious duty and wielding the high power of the Legislature. That he did not personally initiate the attack affords him no defence. He delivered the blow; in a political quarrel he struck at a father over a daughter's shoulders, on the basis of a false report, which he made no effort to investigate; and if he can extract any comfort from the fact that another's ingenuity devised the plan for an assault on a woman which he adopted he is entitled to it.

## Professor Usher's Nightmare.

It has been rather the fashion to threaten the United States with Germany after the war. To be different, and at the same time oracular, Mr. ROBERT G. USHER looks into the seeds of time, and, assuming that Germany is to be humbled and stricken, presents England as the peril and the predatory enemy. She is to smother us with her navy and blot out the Monroe Doctrine. "Once more," says Professor USHER in an article entitled "British Sea Power and South America" in the April *Century*, "her fleet will take physical control of our waters, and will be able to exercise in fact the true supremacy which we have had during the last decade and a half."

This supremacy or sovereignty, we are told, was a "loan" because England "was anxious to keep it out of the hands of Germany," a rival naval power. If Professor USHER will put the clock back to December 18, 1895, when President CLEVELAND, intervening in the boundary line dispute between Venezuela and England, invoked the Monroe Doctrine, it may occur to the Professor that as neither Germany nor the United States had a modern navy at that time, England missed an opportunity to threaten the United States with her sea power in order to gain her ends; instead, she accepted arbitration, winning most of the points in the game. Are we now to accept the dictum of any historian or oracle that England will shake her trident at the second naval power in the world (assuming Germany to be eliminated), and wave the fundamental Monroe Doctrine into the discard?

As well as we can understand Professor USHER's theorizing, England will cover the lion's share of the trade of South America after the great war, and in her campaign to secure it will go to any lengths to intimidate the United States and dispossess her of a legitimate share of that trade. "Why," he asks, "should she not extend her present possessions in the Gulf of Mexico?" The Panama Canal is indicated as a most desirable acquisition, being "the new roadway to the British colonies in Australia, to the British possessions in India, to the marts of trade in China."

Professor USHER's imagination works convulsively. He sees England tearing Alaska from our feeble grasp and occupying puny New York, Chicago or Seattle with troops mobilized in Canada. All this violence and aggression on the part of England may result, it is revealed to us, from her greed for new or greater markets to keep her factories going and feed a congested insular population. In spite of the fact that "she will expect to retain" a majority of the German colonies at the end of the war. This argument is bolstered up by a conception that "political or international complications may make it impossible to satisfy all these impulses in Africa or Asia," or in the self-governing colonies. South America, then, must be exploited to the limit, even if the United States has to be brushed from the imperial path and despoiled.

It strikes us that such speculations are both foolish and mischievous. Aside from the fact that England's merchant marine will assure her about all the South American trade increase she can handle, China is a far richer field for her manufacturers. And the development of South Africa is still in an early stage. If there is any nation England cannot afford to quarrel with or alienate it is the United States.

Mr. SIMMONS of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, cast a prophetic eye upon the \$55,000,000 Treasury deficit and turns it cheerfully into \$26,000,000. Excellent persons, the Democrats, only a little careless about figures, seek to minimize the great Democratic exploit. A deficit is a Democratic surplus.

Yesterday, "the first day of spring," being Sunday, it was a particularly "pious fraud of the almanac."

General HUGH L. SCOTT has again quelled an Indian uprising without violence or bloodshed. General Scott would make a mighty poor hero for a novel of Western life.

That found of wisdom Chairman FRANK P. WALSH of the Industrial Relations Commission has learned in Texas that hoss swappin' is responsible for the evils of rural life, and we expect him to abolish DAVID HARKUM at once.

An industrious resident of Terre Haute, Indiana, twenty-two times and received only \$21. One or two more experiences like this will shake his faith in his fellow men.

The building everybody knows as the Jumel Mansion is to be renamed "the Roger Morris House, Washington Headquarters." If the New York Historical Society has its way, it is a pity the title could not have been made longer.

The Germans are sending 1,000,000 pigs to Belgium to be fed, and the United States may expect at any moment to be called on for contributions to support the starving swine belonging to the Belgians, whose fodder would be of course to sustain the invaders' live stock.

## "IS BEING BUILT."

Renewed Defence of an Attractive and a Useful Expression.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Your correspondent, Mr. ALBERT R. DICKSON, objects to the progressive or periphrastic use of "is being" in such expressions as "The house is being built." Perhaps many may regard this as a needless and unnecessary repetition of the word "building," and one may even conclude that the expression is indefensible from a strictly grammatical view, but is not the progressive form really indispensable? It is a pity the title could not have been made longer.

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## THE DRY WAVE.

Not Prohibition But Moderation the Solution of the Liquor Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I have been a teetotaler since I was a boy, and have followed electrical and structural engineering for fifteen years. At the present time there seems to be a popular demand for a political aversion to the strengthening of the defenses of the nation, and I submit the following for your consideration:

A large and expensive part of the appropriations goes for the maintenance and training of technical service, such as signal corps, mine laying and engineering.

In the employ of the telegraph, telephone and electric companies of the country there are thousands of mechanics who daily work under a strict discipline, and their work as linemen, instrument men, cable splicers and operators is of the highest order. They are acquired which needs comparatively small additional education for efficient work with the war material used in the signal service.

For military training there is also available a large number of fishermen, who work all year in their own vicinity, and the ability to work together upon a common task, and the discipline which these men have acquired in their daily work would take a considerable expense to drill into the average recruit.

There is also in this country a large number of bridge carpenters and emergency men, educated by the railroads and contractors to highly efficient team work, and these men, if properly trained in the corps of engineers.

This applies also to stokers, engineers, electricians and other mechanics for the navy.

Educating these men for their specialty in the army and the navy should make an efficient and economical reserve, and selecting the off seasons of the year for training would not interfere with their regular work.

By educating specialty men for the reserve a certain number of this class might be relieved in the permanent service, and these men would not have to do all the training but draw from the reserve.

The main trouble in enlisting a militia is the aversion of any educated man to the idea of doing manual labor. If the solution, it seems to me, of the entire problem; moderation not prohibition with its chief hyphenated, hypocrisy. HENRY J. FINLAY.  
New York, March 21.

## SENATOR THOMPSON'S QUIZ.

He Disclaims Responsibility for Certain Questions He Put.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The SUN of March 14 contains an editorial which seemed to be written upon the special assumption that during a session of the investigating committee of the support and relief of the war, a man I had asked some question which did not meet, in his good judgment, the approval of the editor of THE SUN.

Without the necessity of adding the fact that the editor of THE SUN writes his editorials in the interest of common sense (which I would be ready to admit), I cannot resist the temptation of calling your attention to the fact that since being a member of the Legislature I have found myself in many cases unable to resist the impulse of asking questions.

I freely admit that I have asked a great many which were not pertinent to the subject, and I am sure that many more that have been doubtless pertinent, uninteresting and not sensibly considered. But the pity and provocation of the signal honor of being personally mentioned in an editorial in THE SUN, I find the editor of THE SUN has taken a subtle and one particular dislike to me, which I find in your editorial of March 14, THE SUN's editorial on Sunday, March 14, was extremely disappointing to me.

In response to the emotion created by the circumstances I have taken the liberty of enclosing to you an extract of the stenographer's minutes, which shows that the questions and answers which were the subject of your editorial were written out in long hand by some constituent of another Senator, and that I was not present when they were asked. I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature.

Children who are brought up as I was, motherless, fail often to grasp the real meaning of love and home until after they have been divorced from their parents. I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature.

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## A TRAINED RESERVE.

The Country Should Be Able to Draw on Its Supply of Specialty Talent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I was formerly a navy officer in Norway and have followed electrical and structural engineering for fifteen years. At the present time there seems to be a popular demand for a political aversion to the strengthening of the defenses of the nation, and I submit the following for your consideration:

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Educating these men for their specialty in the army and the navy should make an efficient and economical reserve, and selecting the off seasons of the year for training would not interfere with their regular work.

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The main trouble in enlisting a militia is the aversion of any educated man to the idea of doing manual labor. If the solution, it seems to me, of the entire problem; moderation not prohibition with its chief hyphenated, hypocrisy. HENRY J. FINLAY.  
New York, March 21.

## MAKE MARRIAGE DIFFICULT.

An Aesthetic, "Brought Up Motherless," Complains of the Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I am not a church member and the majority of Americans citizens are not church members, and we are law abiding and patriotic, and surely law is the right to be happy. There is nothing as sweet as a home. We only pass this way once, and some of us, perhaps some of us, who are first, make a mistake. Sometimes it is our own fault, I admit, but on we are all so weak and blind when we begin to live, and so helpful.

Children who are brought up as I was, motherless, fail often to grasp the real meaning of love and home until after they have been divorced from their parents. I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature, and I am sure that the editor of THE SUN is not a member of the Legislature.

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